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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/064,105	06/11/2002	Michael W. Hawman	EH-10536	3029

30188 7590 09/06/2005

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EXAMINER

JARRETT, RYAN A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2125

DATE MAILED: 09/06/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/064,105

Applicant(s)

HAWMAN ET AL.

Examiner

Ryan A. Jarrett

Art Unit

2125

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 June 2005 and 22 August 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8,10-25,27,34-37,40 and 42-47 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8,10-25,27,34-37,40 and 42-47 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments filed 6/27/05 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Regarding claim 2 as it relates to Aoki, Applicant argues, "Aoki neither describes nor teaches the modification of the disposition of a part relative to the disposition of another part with respect to assisting the routing of that original part." However, when the disposition of a first part is modified (e.g., Fig. 3 steps S3-S4), it is inherent that this modification is "relative" to a disposition of a second part since the different products in the assembly line (e.g., [0001]-[0006]) inherently have some sort of spatial or positional relationship to each other. Applicant further states, "For example, Aoki neither describes nor teaches how one skilled in the art would incorporate another part, for example, a new part, an unexpected part or a replacement part, in the flowchart of Figure 3, or elsewhere in the teachings of Aoki, if such a part was introduced." However, it is noted that these features upon which applicant cites are not recited in the rejected claim(s). Although the claims are interpreted in light of the specification, limitations from the specification are not read into the claims. See *In re Van Geuns*, 988 F.2d 1181, 26 USPQ2d 1057 (Fed. Cir. 1993). The different semiconductor products of Aoki correspond to the claimed "parts".

Regarding claim 14 as it relates to Aoki, it is noted that Aoki does not explicitly disclose "determining whether said second part disposition requires adjustment to said

Art Unit: 2125

first part disposition; and if necessary, modifying said first part disposition and modifying said second part disposition in response to said first part disposition modification”.

Therefore, Aoki has not been used to reject claim 14.

Regarding claim 14 as it relates to Madden, Applicant argues, “Madden neither describes nor teaches modifying or adjusting the disposition of a part with respect to another part. While Madden prioritizes the delayed vehicle, the disposition of the other vehicle is not modified.” However, Madden discloses, “reordering said first and second assemblies so that said second assembly precedes said first assembly on said manufacturing line”. Thus, Madden teaches modifying a part disposition in response to another part disposition for both a first part and a second part.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claims 1-3, 5-7, 10-13, 17, 23, 24, 27, 34-37, 42, 44, and 46 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being clearly anticipated by Aoki US 2001/0056310. For example, Aoki discloses:

2. A computerized method assisting the routing of a part, comprising the steps of: providing at least one computer; receiving part identifier information (e.g., Fig. 3 step S1); and generating a tag for affixing to said part, said tag having information thereon responsive to said part identifier information (e.g., Fig. 3 step S1); evaluating a characteristic of said part based upon said information on said tag to determine a disposition of said part (e.g., Fig. 3 steps S2-S4); modifying said disposition of said part (e.g., Fig. 3 steps S4-S5), if necessary, relative to a disposition of a second part (e.g., [0001]-[0006], *EN: When the disposition of a first part is modified, it is inherent that this modification is "relative" to a disposition of a second part since the different products in the assembly line inherently have some sort of spatial or positional relationship to each other.*); receiving said disposition of said part (e.g., Fig. 3 step S5); and generating a new tag for affixing to said part, said tag having information thereon responsive to said part characteristic (e.g., Fig. 3 step S5); wherein said user can review and route said part accordingly (e.g., Fig. 3 steps S6-S7).

12. A computerized method of tailoring work instructions to perform on a part, comprising the steps of: providing at least one computer having memory with global work instructions therein, said global work instructions relevant to a plurality of parts and to a plurality of work locations (e.g., [0036]); receiving part identifier information and work location information (e.g., Fig. 3 step S3); processing said part identifier information and said work location information (e.g., Fig. 3 step S4); and generating tailored work instructions from said computer responsive to said part identifier information and said work location information (e.g., Fig. 3 step S5); wherein a user reviews said tailored work instructions and performs said tailored work instructions accordingly (e.g., Fig. 3 step S6).

Art Unit: 2125

13. The method of claim 12, wherein said processing step comprises searching said global work instructions for tasks relevant to said part and said work location (e.g., Fig. 3 step S4).

17. The method of claim 12, wherein said part identifier information includes a part number (e.g., [0043]).

37. A computer system for dispositioning of parts, comprising: means for receiving part identifier information for a first part and a second part; and means for processing said first and second part identifier information to produce first and second part dispositions (e.g., Fig. 3), wherein said second part disposition may require adjustment to said first part disposition (*EN: not positively recited and thus carries no patentable weight*).

4. Claims 2, 14, 20, 21, 37, and 40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Madden et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,516,239. Madden et al. discloses:

2. A computerized method assisting the routing of a part, comprising the steps of: providing at least one computer; receiving part identifier information; and generating a tag for affixing to said part, said tag having information thereon responsive to said part identifier information; evaluating a characteristic of said part based upon said information on said tag to determine a disposition of said part; modifying said disposition of said part, if necessary, relative to a disposition of a second part (e.g., col. 4 lines 10-54: "reordering said first and second assemblies"); receiving said disposition of said part; and generating a new tag for affixing to said part, said tag having information thereon responsive to said part characteristic (e.g., col. 12 lines 7-29, *EN: In this case, the claimed "affixed tag" corresponds to the affixed VID bar code of Madden. The VID is associated with records, data, and other information on a server database. This information is updated*

Art Unit: 2125

when the parts come into contact with a bar code reader, which corresponds to the claimed "generating a new tag", col. 16 line 65 – col. 17 line 2, EN: Madden also discloses that "tracking sheets" for the parts may be printed); wherein said user can review said information on said tag and route said part accordingly (e.g., col. 15 lines 33-55, e.g., col. 16 lines 29-64, e.g., col. 22 line 47 – col. 23 line 17).

14. A computerized method of dispositioning of parts, comprising the steps of: providing at least one computer; receiving part identifier information for a first part; determining a disposition of said first part responsive to said first part identifier information; receiving part identifier information for a second part to said computer; determining a disposition of said second part responsive to said second part identifier; determining whether said second part disposition requires adjustment to said first part disposition; and if necessary, modifying said first part disposition and modifying said second part disposition in response to said first part disposition modification (e.g., col. 4 lines 10-54: "reordering said first and second assemblies"); wherein a user reviews said first and second dispositions and dispositions said first and second parts accordingly (e.g., col. 15 lines 33-55; e.g., col. 16 lines 29-64, e.g., col. 22 line 47 – col. 23 line 17).

20. The method of claim 14, wherein said part identifier information includes a part number (e.g., col. 7 lines 29-36).

21. The method of claim 20, wherein said part identifier information also includes a serial number (e.g., col. 7 lines 29-36).

37. A computer system for dispositioning of parts, comprising: means for receiving part identifier information for a first part and a second part; and means for processing said first and second part identifier information to produce first and second part

Art Unit: 2125

dispositions, wherein said first part disposition may require adjustment to said first part disposition (e.g., col. 4 lines 10-54: "reordering said first and second assemblies").

40. The method of claim 2, wherein said part identifier information includes a serial number (e.g., col. 7 lines 29-36).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 4, 8, 18, 25, 40, 45 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Aoki as applied to claims 2, 7, 12, 17, and 24 above, and further in view of Pappas U.S. Patent No. 6,338,045. Aoki does not explicitly disclose that the part identifier information includes a serial number. However, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use a serial number on the parts of Aoki since Pappas discloses the use of serial numbers in an assembly and maintenance operation as a means of tracking the various parts in the operation (e.g., abstract).

7. Claims 15, 16, 19, 43, and 47 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Aoki as applied to claims 1, 2, 6, 11, and 12 above, and further in view of Pappas U.S. Patent No. 6,338,045. Aoki does not specifically disclose that the

part is a "gas turbine engine part". However, Pappas discloses a method for managing and tracking activities and parts in an aircraft assembly and maintenance operation, including jet engine parts (e.g., col. 5 lines 21-40). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Aoki with Pappas since Pappas teaches that it is desirable to track jet engine parts in an assembly or maintenance operation in order to help prevent the use of unapproved parts in aircraft (e.g., col. 1 line 10 – col. 2 line 3).

8. Claims 22 and 43 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Madden et al. as applied to claims 2 and 14 above, and further in view of Pappas U.S. Patent No. 6,338,045. Madden et al. does not specifically disclose that the part is a "gas turbine engine part". However, Pappas discloses a method for managing and tracking activities and parts in an aircraft assembly and maintenance operation, including jet engine parts (e.g., col. 5 lines 21-40). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Madden et al. with Pappas since Pappas teaches that it is desirable to track jet engine parts in an assembly or maintenance operation in order to help prevent the use of unapproved parts in aircraft (e.g., col. 1 line 10 – col. 2 line 3).

Art Unit: 2125

Conclusion

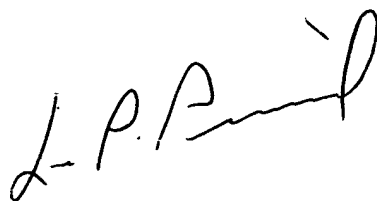
9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ryan A. Jarrett whose telephone number is (571) 272-3742. The examiner can normally be reached on 10:00-6:30 M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Leo Picard can be reached on (571) 272-3749. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Ryan A. Jarrett
Examiner
Art Unit 2125

9/1/05
RAJ



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